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BOOK REVIEWS.

WHARTON & STILLE'S MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE. Three volumes. Fifth edition. Rochester: Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Company. 1905. pp. Vol. I, clv, 1031; Vol. II, xxx, 858; Vol. III, lxxix, 692.

For nearly a half century the work under consideration has been before the professions of law and medicine. Always of excellent reputation each succeeding edition, keeping pace with the times, has in turn been regarded as a standard. The fifth edition, now before us, is like an old friend whose ripe wisdom and increased experience of years makes him a more interesting and valuable companion. When we compare the three ponderous tomes of the present edition with the single volume of years ago it is at once brought home to us how vast since then has been the development of the science of medical jurisprudence in this country. The rapid growth of the country with its maintained proportion of crime, the increase in scientific knowledge of the nature of, and test for, poisons, the development of the science of medicine, particularly in regard to mental conditions, and the enactment of new laws, have so changed and enlarged the science of medical jurisprudence that it is now a subject of enormous proportions.

It has been the aim of the publishers in this edition to bring the work up to the times. In this they have been eminently successful. To accomplish this has entailed a great deal of labor. Almost the entire work has been carefully revised and pruned until it bears scarcely a resemblance even to the last edition. Many new and valuable chapters have been added, and the editors have been happy in the selection for this purpose of writers of exceptional ability and fitness for their tasks.

The first volume treats of "Mental Unsoundness," a term of much greater significance than insanity, and including in its classification a wider range of subjects than could properly be covered by the latter word. It is divided into two books, the first of which deals with "Mental Unsoundness in its Legal Relations." In this part the laws which apply to the various mental disorders, are set forth with clearness and accuracy, and the principal leading cases in support of the text are given. The jurist will read with particular interest the chapters on Wills and Evidence. These subjects are presented in a most comprehensive and exhaustive manner, and an attention to detail which leaves little to be desired. The sections on Distinction between Mental and Legal Insanity, and their relation to irresponsibility, can be read with advantage by the majority of medical experts and attorneys. A better knowledge of this subject would result in saving a great deal of the time of the Court and a great deal of confusion in the minds of jurors.

Exception must be taken to the Author's use of the term "Monomania" or "partial insanity,"—terms which are obsolete and not to be found in any modern work on Phychiatry. Nor would the phychiater recognize in the definition of monomania the condition which

has for many years been known as "paranoia." This is a minor fault, however, and does not materially detract from the excellence of the work as a whole.

The second book deals with the subject of Insanity—its various forms, and its medico-legal aspects. This part is so complete that it is in itself a condensed textbook on insanity, and compares favorably with most other works on the same subject.

The second volume considers the subjects of poisons. The nature of poisons, their symptomatology in relation to man; and the post-mortem changes which they cause are thoroughly discussed. The most recent methods for their detection and isolation are also considered. This, however, is a feature, which will not appeal greatly to either the physician or the chemist. The former is rarely equipped or competent to perform any extensive chemical analysis, and the latter will hardly consider the technique entirely adequate for his needs. The sections on the symptomatology and post-mortem appearances are very complete, and together with the sections on the treatment make the work a valuable addition to the physician's library aside from any consideration of jurisprudence.

The third volume on "Physical Conditions and Treatment" is divided into four books. The first is devoted entirely to the consideration of infanticide. The subject is handled in a masterly manner and deserves careful reading. The second book treats of questions arising out of the differences in sex, including doubtful sex, sexual disability, and the various varieties of sexual crimes. The third book considers the subjects of "Physical Injuries by Force," including wounds, injuries due to electricity, and suffocation. The fourth book refers to questions distinctively legal. This should be read by every physician, whether he is interested in jurisprudence or not. He should read it as a matter of education, and for his own protection, if for no other reasons. The chapters on the relation between physician and patient; the degree of skill required from the physician by the law; and the effects of their acts upon the rights, duties and liberties of third persons, contain information which ought to be, but rarely is thoroughly understood by every practitioner of medicine. A better understanding of these subjects would materially diminish the number of suits for malpractice. One of the most valuable features of the work is the exhaustive table of leading cases on every subject connected with medical jurisprudence. This will prove of inestimable service to the attorney in searching for parallel cases and decisions, and to the physician who desires to study the literature on any topic on which he contemplates figuring as an expert witness. As a whole the work is thoroughly up to date, and maintains, as of old, its reputation as a standard.

JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES. By Hannis Taylor, LL. D., Rochester, N. Y. The Lawyers Co-operative Publishing Company. 1905. pp. lxi, 1007.

The title of this work sufficiently indicates its scope, although under Part III, "Appellate Jurisdiction Over Special Federal Courts," there is given, in addition to matters pertaining directly to the Supreme Court, a brief account of the organization and jurisdic-